

**What is involved in getting an irrigation meter?** BPW Customers can arrange to have a water meter installed on their property for irrigation. There is a charge for the installation of the meter and a monthly “Ready to Serve” charge applies to the new meter. Savings are realized by avoiding sewer charges on the irrigation consumption.

**BACKGROUND:** Customers choosing to have a water meter installed on their property for the expressed purpose of irrigation may do so by contacting the BPW.

The costs associated with the installation of this meter are

- Cost of meter and meter pit
- Cost of meter installation
- Monthly “Ready to Serve” charge
- Cost of water used per month

For more information on the BPW “Ready to Serve” charge, please see the information paper: **Why do I pay a “Ready to Serve” Charge? (August 24, 2011)**

**STATUS:** The cost of the impact fee for installation of an irrigation meter was suspended on July 8, 2010. However a “Ready to Serve” charge still applies to the meters installed. New irrigation “Ready to Serve” rates were unanimously approved by a vote of the BPW Board at the November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011, BPW public Board meeting.

Irrigation Rates				
"Ready To Serve" Charge				
Meter Size	Old Rate - Inside City	New Rate - Inside City	Old Rate - Outside City	New Rate Outside City
5/8"	\$15.00	\$3.60	\$21.75	\$5.22
1"	\$19.10	\$4.25	\$27.69	\$6.16
other		\$1+ (Cost of meter /60)		\$1+(Cost of meter /60)+45%)
The new rates are effective January 1, 2012. Consumption rates are unchanged.				

This charge covers meter reading, meter replacement, standby by personnel and other fixed costs. The meter as well as the connections to outside faucets or irrigation system must be installed by a certified plumber and inspected by BPW staff.

The comparable sewer rates that normally accompany home water consumption do not apply to the irrigation meter water usage. The BPW staff can assist customers in assessing whether an irrigation meter will meet a “cost-benefit-analysis” based on customer usage history. BPW’s charge for water used by an irrigation meter is \$2.00 per 1,000 gallons.

**QUESTIONS:** If you have further questions about the basis for the irrigation meter installation charge, please contact the BPW General Manager, Darrin Gordon: 302-645-6228; e-mail us at:

[bpwcustomerservice@ci.lewes.de.us](mailto:bpwcustomerservice@ci.lewes.de.us) Or go to: [www.ci.lewes.de.us/BPW-Utilities](http://www.ci.lewes.de.us/BPW-Utilities)

June 9, 2012